

# Council Reporter

## Of June 11, 2008

### Public Comments

- Jean Shorett asked the Council to review the Town's water ordinance and its implementation.
- Bruce Russell spoke about the need for enforcement and standard operating procedures. He expressed concerns about representations made to remove a large tree and asked Councilmembers to review the decision.
- Mike Lebowitz spoke about the high volume of traffic that cuts through the Leland Center parking lot.

### Public Hearings

- Councilmembers decided to continue the hearing on sidewalks for Oakridge Avenue and Thornapple Street, including further consideration of option 5 which places the proposed new sidewalks on the east side of Oakridge and the north side of Thornapple. As part of the decision to move forward with consideration of that option, Council agreed unanimously that the width of the sidewalks will be 3.5' feet on both Oakridge and Thornapple, and that the feasibility of permeability will continue to be studied actively in advance of the continuation of the hearing in July. As to option 5, Council also agreed that the sidewalk should be connected with the existing sidewalks on the east side of Oakridge, and the south side of Curtis (via a crosswalk in the second case). Council further agreed to obtain and to present to the community recommendations on the installation of a new stop sign and crosswalks at Curtis and Oakridge, reduction of the speed limit to 20mph on the block of Oakridge with new sidewalks, and other potential traffic improvements on that block in advance of the July meeting. Three Councilmembers (Strom, Lang, and Lublin) supported parking on one side of Oakridge Avenue; two (Barnes and Enelow) supported taking additional portions of existing green space on both sides of Oakridge to make it possible to maintain parking on both sides of the street. Public hearing will be continued at July Council meeting. Council also agreed that the sidewalk should be connected with the existing sidewalks on the east side of Oakridge, and the south side of Curtis (via a crosswalk in the second case).
- Unanimously approved resolution to amend Town's permit fee and performance bond schedule.

### Council Actions:

- Introduced ordinance to impose time limits on approved variances. Public hearing scheduled for future Council meeting. Publicize in Forecast.
- Introduced ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of Town Code regarding front yard improvements. Public hearing scheduled for September Council meeting. Publicize in September Forecast.
- Introduced ordinance to amend Chapter 4 of Town Code regarding improvements in Town right-of-way. Public hearing scheduled for September Council meeting. Publicize in September Forecast.

### Discussions

- Council will not have a meeting in August, and there will be no August Forecast.
- Directed staff to remove STOP sign at Valley Place and Beechwood Drive.

- Councilmember Barnes to testify at County Council Public Hearing in support of land use proposal regarding lot coverage.
- CCES Traffic Plan
  - Directed staff to post diagram of proposed traffic plan for CCES on website.
  - Public Services Committee to modify plan to include permit parking on south side of Rosemary Street.
  - Directed staff to schedule public hearing on proposed plan for July Council meeting.
  - Requested Councilmember Al Lang and Public Services Committee to hold public meeting before the July Council meeting.
- Speed Hump Policy
  - Agreed 3-2 in favor of speed hump policy as amended. (In favor: Strom, Barnes, and Lublin; opposed: Enelow and Lang).
- Removal of “Access to Wisconsin Avenue Restricted” Signs on Streets Intersecting Connecticut Avenue
  - Deferred consideration until the July Council meeting.
- Bethesda Metro 4 Proposed Development
  - Agreed to send letter to Planning Board in asking for a reexamination of the method that FAR was calculated for Bethesda Metro 4 development.
- Ambulance Transport Fees
  - Agreed to send letter to county opposing ambulance transport fees.
- East/Leland Crosswalk and Rotary at 46<sup>th</sup> and Leland
  - Council directed Public Services Committee to study the feasibility of reconfiguring Thornapple path to the north and installing a crosswalk at East Avenue and Leland Street.
  - Council directed Public Services Committee to study the feasibility of installing a traffic rotary at Leland and 46<sup>th</sup>.